

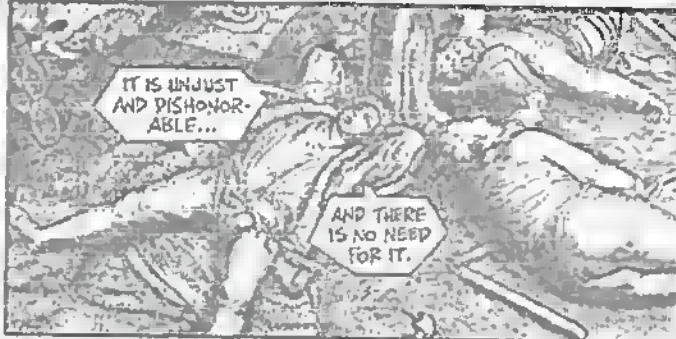
GRAUSTARK

The first 'zine for the postal play of Diplomacy, a game of negotiation and conflict designed by Allan B. Calhamer and published by Hasbro

#786 2002D, "Winter 1915"; 2004C, "Spring 1910"; 2006A, "Fall 1904" 15 November 2008

"VICTORY of the LOUD LITTLE HANDFUL"

THE LOUD LITTLE HANDFUL - AS USUAL - WILL SHOUT FOR THE WAR. THE PULPIT WILL - WARILY AND CAUTIOUSLY - OBJECT... AT FIRST. THE GREAT, BIG, DULL BULK OF THE NATION WILL RUB ITS SLEEPY EYES AND TRY TO MAKE OUT WHY THERE SHOULD BE A WAR, AND WILL SAY, EARNESTLY AND INDIGNANTLY,



THEN THE HANDFUL WILL SHOUT LOUDER. A FEW FAIR MEN ON THE OTHER SIDE WILL ARGUE AND REASON AGAINST THE WAR WITH SPEECH AND PEN, AND AT FIRST WILL HAVE A HEARING AND BE APPLAUDED, BUT IT WILL NOT LAST LONG; THOSE OTHERS WILL OUTSHOUT THEM, AND PRESENTLY THE ANTI-WAR AUDIENCES WILL THIN OUT AND LOSE POPULARITY.

BEFORE LONG YOU WILL SEE THIS CURIOUS THING: THE SPEAKERS STONED FROM THE PLATFORM, AND FREE SPEECH STRANGLED BY HORDES OF FURIOUS MEN... NEXT THE STATESMEN WILL INVENT CHEAP LIES, PUTTING THE BLAME ON THE NATION THAT IS ATTACKED...



THUS HE WILL BY AND BY CONVINCE HIMSELF THAT WAR IS JUST, AND WILL THANK GOD FOR THE BETTER SLEEP HE ENJOYS AFTER THIS PROCESS OF GROTESQUE SELF-DECEPTION.

MARK TWAIN, "THE UNREMARKABLE STRANGER" (1912)

AND EVERY MAN WILL BE GLAD OF THOSE CONSCIENCE-SOOTHING FALSITIES, AND WILL DILIGENTLY STUDY THEM, AND REFUSE TO EXAMINE ANY REPUTATIONS OF THEM.

DRAMAS BY BRUEGEL THE ELDER



This cover features an analysis by Mark Twain and Peter Bruegel the Elder of the American invasions of Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and anywhere else that a President thinks will get his name and deeds into the history books.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

I recommend that postal Diplomacy players mail in their moves rather than phoning them in. But if you do phone them in, for the time being don't leave a message on my answering machine. I have discovered that it is currently out of order, and will not record. If I don't answer the phone, phone back later. I will inform players when I can get the answering machine repaired.

*

Today's Terrorism Alert Color Code is Bedsheet White, for the announced determination by Neo-Confederates to prevent an African-American, by force of arms, from taking office as President of the United States.

*

Graustark is the Very First bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy. It is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Diplomacy is a board game of negotiation and conflict for the period of World War I. It was designed by Allan B. Calhamer and is now published by Hasbro. Another new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized in Graustark, at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50, and for other foreign addresses it is \$100, or 75 euros in cash.) This game fee includes a subscription to Graustark for as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee send in a list of the countries you'd like to play, in your order of preference, and I'll try to put you as close to the top of that list as I can. If you do not already have the postal rules for Diplomacy, which were last published in Graustark #749, let me know when you send in your game fee, and I'll send you a copy.

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and \$40 or 30 euros for others. Back issues as available are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same price as for foreign subscriptions. Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579. # 2146

I want to again remind players that the U. S. Postal "Service" is not capable of reliably getting mail here in less than a week. Please take this into account in sending in your moves. If, a few times, your moves have arrived here by mail in less than a week, do not assume that this will always be the case.

Graustark readers who are interested in postal games which don't run here, are invited to write to the publishers of 'zines with which I trade, and ask what game openings they have. For their addresses, see all the readers indicated by "(T)" for "trade" in the Graustark Directory on p. 6 of this issue. Several of these publishers run a wide variety of postal games.

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In the past, I have referred readers to the current issue of *The World Almanac* for domestic and foreign postal rates. However, the new rates that went into effect in May 2007, with changes in May 2008, are so complicated that *The World Almanac* gave in its 2008 issue only a sketchy and inadequate listing of them. In particular, it did not mention the increased rates for "large envelopes", nor did it even define the term "large envelope". The 2009 *World Almanac* should be out in a few days, and will probably be just as inadequate. (Moreover, it is their custom to get copies on the shelves early, even if it means printing them before the results of the World Series and the presidential election can be included.) Therefore, if you need any postal rates more complicated than the one-ounce domestic rate for a "small" envelope, you'll have to phone 1-800-ASK-USPS and ask for "Customer Service". This by-passes their pre-recorded information, though you may have to wait for a real person to come on the line.

*

And now we must consider what happens now that Obama has won. Since he is half African by ancestry, white supremacist groups have already threatened his life. A Tennessee "skinhead" plot to assassinate him and over 100 other African-Americans has recently been revealed by police. A survey of such plots by the diligent researchers of

2006A

"Fall 1904"

"MARE NOSTRUM" ONCE AGAIN?

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A Bre-Par; F Mid-Spa(s.c.); F Nth-Nwy; F Bar S F Nth-Nwy; F Nrg S F Bar; F Eng-Mid.

FRANCE (Alme): F Por S ITALIAN F Wes-Spa(s.c.); A Par-Gas.

GERMANY (Jordan): F Ska S ENGLISH F Nth-Nwy; A Gas S ENGLISH F Mid-Spa(s.c.); A Bur S ENGLISH A Bre-Par; A Mun S A Bur; F Den-Swe; A Sil-War; A Pru S A Sil-War.

ITALY (Burgess): A Mar-Bur; A Gre S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN F Aeg-Bul(s.c.); F Wes-Spa(s.c.); F Lyo S F Wes-Spa(s.c.); F Tyr-Wes.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Williams): A Bul-Rum; A Ser S A Bul-Rum; A Vie-Bud; F Aeg-Con; A Boh-Vie [sic; no such unit exists]; A Tyr not ordered, holds.

RUSSIA (Biehl): F Nwy holds; A War holds; F St.P(n.c.) S F Nwy; A Smy S F Con; A Rum-Bul; F Con S A Rum-Bul; A Gal S A War.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Russian F Nwy is dislodged and annihilated, and Russia must retreat A Rum-Sev or -Ukr, or remove the unit. The direction of this retreat should be sent in with the "Winter 1904" orders, which may be made conditional on it. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:
 ENGLAND: Bel, Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy. (6) AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Rum, Ser, Tri, Vie. (6)
 FRANCE: Par, Por. (2) RUSSIA: Ank, Con, Mos, St.P, Sev, Smy, Italy may build two new units, and Austria-Hungary and Russia may each build one. (Russia has a second build if the dislodged a Rum is removed.) Germany must remove one unit. The deadline for "Winter 1904" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2008.

2004C

"Spring 1910"

"WHO'S MY ALLY?"

FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): A Wal-Yor; F Bre-Eng; F Liv-Cly.

GERMANY (Mathias): F Lon-Wal; A Yor-Liv; A War S A Sil; A Pru-Ber; A Liv S A War; A St.P S A Mos; F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo; A Par-Bre; A Bur-Mar; F Eng S F Lon-Wal; F Nth S F Eng; A Sil S A Kie-Mun; A Kie-Mun.

ITALY (Mooney): A Mun-Boh; A Pie-Ven; A Tyr S A Pie-Ven; A Mar holds; F Mid-Por; F Wes not ordered, holds; F Lyo-Tyr; F Naf-Tun [sic; no such unit exists];

RUSSIA (Biehl): A Mos holds.

TURKEY (Bruce): A Bud-Vie; A Gal S A Bud-Vie; A Sev-Mos; A Ukr S A Sev-Mos; F Gre-Ion; A Con-Bul; A Ank-Sev; F Bla S A Ank-Sev; F Tri-Ven.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1910" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2008.

VERSAILLES, 17 JAN. 1903): Jim: Good idea, sorry I screwed it up.

2002D

"Winter 1916"

FRANCE (Lischett): Builds F Bre.

GERMANY (Quirk): Builds A Ber & A Kie.

The deadline for "Spring 1917" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2008. A draw has been proposed for this game, and players should send in their votes on this draw with their "Spring 1917" orders. For a draw to take effect, all votes must be affirmative. Abstentions will be counted as negative votes.

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issue of Graustark. This information is valid to the date of 5 November 2008. See p. 2 for information about extending your subscription or joining a new game.

787 - Eric Verheiden	797 - W. Andrew York	799 - Mike Barno
790 - Mike Fisher	799 - Brenton Verploeg	

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 2)

the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) was recently published by them. Curiously, some white supremacists hoped that Obama would be elected, as they believe that such a dramatic development would provoke an armed racist uprising against him. So we may see the third attempt to reverse the results of a presidential election by force.

The first such attempt was of course the Slaveholders' Rebellion, and the second was an abortive attempt in the 1930s, by elements of the American Legion, to persuade a popular Marine general to lead a *coup d'etat* against President Roosevelt. Indeed, the white supremacist statements about Obama, collected by the SPLC, bear a strong resemblance to these words, which appeared in a southern newspaper during the 1860 presidential campaign:

"The South will never permit Abraham Lincoln to be inaugurated President of the United States; this is a settled and sealed fact. It is the determination of all parties in the South. Let the consequences be what they may, whether the Potomac is crimsoned in human gore, and Pennsylvania Avenue is paved ten fathoms deep with mangled bodies, or whether the last vestige of liberty is swept from the face of the American continent, the South, the loyal South, the constitutional South, will never submit to such humiliation and degradation as the inauguration of Abraham."

For information about the abortive coup against President Roosevelt, consult a book entitled *The Plot to Seize the White House*. (I do not have the author's name available at the moment, but will get it into the next issue. The plot, which had been designed along the lines of Mussolini's *coup d'etat* in Italy, failed because the retired general approached to lead it was horrified, and reported it to a member of Congress who then held hearings that revealed its details.) The statements vowing a violent response to the election of Barack Obama maybe found in this year's issues of the SPLC's quarterly newsletter *SPLC Reports*. Since President-Elect Obama is being well guarded by the Secret Service, other African-Americans have already been attacked by white supremacists opposed to his election. A church in Massachusetts has been destroyed by fire, and a teen-ager was attacked in Staten Island.

Since the election, it is being reported from the West that gun shops are doing a heavy business. Purchasers claim that they want to buy guns before the Obama Administration seizes them all. Since Obama never made any such claim as a candidate, we may suspect that these firearms are being purchased for the revolt which white supremacists say would be the likely consequence of an Obama victory. Needless to say, any attempt by white supremacists to rise in violence against the inauguration and administration of President Obama will not be a major war. Instead, it will provide a welcome opportunity to suppress these racist fanatics once and for all.

Incidentally, President-Elect Obama's enemies seem to be animated by numerology. Those Tennessee "skinhead" plotters planned to shoot exactly 88 African-Americans, and in addition to behead 14 more. The number "14" refers to a 14-word slogan which expresses their ideology. As for "88", "H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet, and thus they see "88" as symbolizing "HH" for "Heil Hitler". If, in a German or German-American bar, you raise your glass and say "*Acht und achtzig*" ("88"), you may get some - er - interesting responses.

*

(continued on p. 7)

MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIAS

In the past year, news reports have acquainted many people with the fact that there are two parts of the world called "Georgia". One is the American state which, as a colony, was named after King George II of Great Britain. The other is a republic in the Caucasus Mountains which is probably named after St. George, the alleged dragon-slayer. (You will find the *real* story of St. George in Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. This alleged "dragon-slayer" was named patron saint of England in the 14th century. At the time, England's principal military operation was the conquest of Wales. Now guess what the national emblem of Wales is.)

Be that as it may, both (Caucasian) Georgia and England have on their national flags St. George's cross, red on a white background. This flag was frequently seen on the television news during the recent invasion of that Georgia by Russian troops. President Bush and his flunkies in the media complained loudly about this invasion, but never mentioned that, at the time Russian troops invaded Georgia, there were Georgian troops operating in four foreign nations: Iraq, Afghanistan, Abkhazia, and Yuzhno-Ossetia. Nor is there anything unprecedented about Russian troops in (Caucasian) Georgia. In 1801 Russian troops overran Georgia, and President Jefferson said and did nothing about it. In 1921 Russian troops overran Georgia, and President Harding said and did nothing about it. The case can be made that Jefferson was our most intelligent President, and Harding was the least intelligent. With a spread of views like that, it is difficult to see why President Bush got so excited about the matter, particularly since American troops seem to be stationed all over the world.

The Georgia in the American South made news in 2008 chiefly because two Georgians claimed they had found a dead "Bigfoot" in the mountains of northern Georgia, and even provided the media with photographs of this "corpse" in a freezer. "Bigfoot" is the currently popular American name for a widespread mythological topic. In several parts of the world it is alleged that huge, shaggy anthropoid primates or their footprints have been seen. In the Himalaya Mountains these alleged beasts are called "Yetis", "Metch-Kangmis", or a translation of this last name, "Abominable Snowman". (Owing to a widely reprinted misprint, the term "Metch-Kangmi" is sometimes seen.) In the Pacific Northwest the creatures of such myths are called "Sasquatches". This story even circulates in the Caucasian Mountains, where they are called "Shaitani" ("Satans"). In all such cases, actual physical evidence consists only of footprints (usually in snow) or animal fragments of dubious provenance and nature.

The "Bigfoot" from America's Georgia looked so much like a gorilla costume that the hoax could not be long maintained, though it was complicated by the fact that one of the men who appeared at its "discoverers'" press conference was wearing a Wookiee costume. After all, 144 years ago the whole U. S. Army went through the mountains of northern Georgia and didn't find any such monsters. DNA analysis of three "specimens" from the alleged Georgia Bigfoot revealed that one of them may have been human, but another was from an opossum, and the third could not be identified.

Several years ago there were reports of a "Bigfoot" sighting from the docks of Hoboken, New Jersey. This turned out to be a thoroughly human derelict, which is probably the reality behind all "Bigfoot" sightings that are not out-and-out fakes. For several centuries "trolls" have been reported in Icelandic folklore, which if investigated have also turned out to be human derelicts. Anyone who absents himself from human society, lives in the wilderness, and goes without washing, shaving, or clean clothes is likely to be eventually reported as some kind of alien monster.

On the other hand, election returns from the American Georgia indicate that sub-humans may be casting a lot of votes there. Currently there is a run-off election campaign in Georgia to see whether Senator Saxby Chambliss, a Republican, will be re-elected. During Senator Chambliss's first senatorial campaign in 2002, he pledged that if elected he would let Georgia sheriffs keep Muslims out of the state. We have not since been informed what success this plan is having. Maybe Senator Chambliss can't recruit enough Bigfoots for the job. Perhaps he should try to bring in some Shaitani from the other Georgia.

Film footage of a "Bigfoot", allegedly from the Pacific Northwest, has appeared on

THE GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

Players in a current postal Diplomacy games are indicated by its Boardman Number, with the initial of the country being played, and with "S" indicating a substitute player. (E. g., "2006A-R" or "2002D-FS".) Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

N: entrant in the next Graustark postal Diplomacy game

R: complimentary copy for a non-gamer interested in the mystery novel reviews

T: trade copy

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 12 November 2008. Addresses which have changed from those listed in #785 are underlined. If any later changes of address come in before this issue is completely printed, they will be listed in "The Ministry of Miscellany". Please let me know of any corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added to your listing. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses.

If you are already a Graustark subscriber when you decide to send in a game fee, then when the game begins, the number of issues you had coming when you joined will be added to your subscription once the game ends. After your name in the Directory will appear some such notation as "2004C-T+6".

Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;

<stephen@stephenagar.com>

Hank Alme (2004C, 2006A-FS), 7017 Jeweled Hand Circle, Columbia, MD 21044;

410-531-5513 <almehj@alumni.rice.edu>

Thom Anderson (R), #5-D, 10 Park Terrace East, New York, NY 10034

Mike Barro (799), 634 Dawson Hill Road, Spencer, NY 14883-9712

Futh Berman (R), 2809 Drew Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4209

John R. Biehl (2004C-R, 2006A-R), #8, 11530 84th Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2M1, CANADA;

604-816-0460; <jrb@dccnet.com>

Mark Blackman (C), Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 18th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229

Paul Bolduc (U), 203 Devon Court, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3110; 850-863-9081;

<prbolduc@aol.com>; <bolduc@eglin.af.com>

Anne Braude (R), 5313 W. Acapulco Lane, Glendale, AZ 85306-3416

Colin Bruce (2004C-T+6), 30 Almoners' Avenue, Cambridge CB1 8PA, ENGLAND

Jim Burgess (2006A-I, T), 664 Smith St., Providence, RI 02908-4327; 401-351-0287;

<burgess@world.std.com>; web page <<http://devel.diplom.org/DipPouch/Postal/Zines/TAP/index.html>>

Allan B. Calhamer (C), 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, IL 60525-5523

Paul Cardwell Jr. (C), 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418-2913; 903-583-9296

David Charlton (C), 150 The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington 6002, NEW ZEALAND

Columbia Games Inc. (C), P. O. Box 3457, Blaine, WA 98231

Jim Dunnigan (C), 328 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011

Paul Evans (T), 180 Aylsham Dr., Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8UF, ENGLAND

Mark Fassio (U), 276 Yates Lane, Pendleton, KY 40055-7751

Sue Feder (R), Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, 3 Goucher Woods Court, Towson,

MD 21286; fax 410-847-9303; <monkshould@home.com>; <<http://members.home.net/monkshould>>

Mike Fisher (790), #2, 43 W. Manheim St., Philadelphia, PA 19144-2942

Timothy R. Haffey Sr. (U), 810 53rd Ave., Oakland, CA 94601; 510-536-3513;

<trhaffey@yahoo.com>

Chris Hassler (T), 2000 S. Armour Court, La Habra, CA 90631; 562-690-7827; fax 562-690-

7827; <chassler@adelphia.com>

Sharon Heap (C), 2876 NY Route 26 South, Vestal, NY 13856

Raymond & Faith Heuer (R), 2nd floor, 9 Beacon Terrace, Keansburg, NJ 07734-1914

Tom Howell (T), 365 Storm King Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363; 360-928-9698;

<off-the-shelf@olympus.net>

Harley Jordan (2002D-RS, 2006A-G), 109 Sunnyside Dr., Rochester, NY 14623; 585-475-9832

Susan Keaveny (R), 1030 Tyrus Court, North Merrick, NY 11566-1035
 Paul D. Kenny (T), 9 Cobblestone Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-1420
 Paul Koch (2004C), 24920 Fairmount Dr., Dearborn, MI 48124; 313-274-6579
 Timothy Lane (R), P. O. Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281
 Robert Lesco (T), 49 Parkside Drive, Brampton, Ontario L6Y 2H1, CANADA; 905-452-6304;
 <rlesco@yahoo.com>
 Andy Lischett (2002D-FS, T), 2402 Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402; 708-788-1507
 Rick Loomis (C), Flying Buffalo Inc., P. O. Box 1467, Scottsdale, AZ 85252
 Michael Lowrey (C), 6903 Kentucky Derby Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215-6507; 704-569-4269;
 <mlowrey@infionline.net>
 Joseph T. Major (C), 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040
 Harry Manogg (C), 63 Parker Hill Road, Landmark...Apt. 401, Boston, MA 02120; 617-277-3037
 Brad Martin (C), 180 Peninsula Road, Maylands 6051, Western Australia, AUSTRALIA;
 <Westfront@hotmail.com>
 Dan Mathias (2004C-G), 509 Bayview Drive, Lusby, MD 20657; 410-326-2568;
 <dcmathias@comcast.net>
 David Milliams (C), Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307-1666;
 404-377-0032 fax; <milliams.david@paideiaschool.org>; <www.paideiaschool.org>;
 <www.krause.com/static/comics.htm>
 Maggie Montgomery (R), Apt. 819, 325 W. 45th St., New York, NY 10036
 Brendan Mooney (2004C-I), 423 Lenox Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090; 908-654-0527;
 <bkmoooney@comcast.net>
 Albert A. Nofi (C), 3506 Duval Street, Austin, TX 78705; <anofi@aol.com>
 Carsten Obst (T), Pechsteinstr. 13, D-24539 Neumünster, GERMANY
 Keith Wm. Oschman (U), Riverside Christian School, Lost Creek, KY 41348
 Michael P. Quirk (2002D-GS, 2006A, N), 904 Beckett Crossing Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060;
 847-837-0489
 Berend E. Renken (N), Apt. 303, 10545 Greenwood Drive, Seattle, WA 98133-8781
 Roberta Rogow (R), 1755-A Manor Drive, Irvington, NJ 07111
 Karl Schmit (2006A), 1509 O'Keefe Road, De Pere, WI 54115; 920-338-8402;
 <diplomacy@new.rr.com>
 Bruce Schneier (C), Counterpane Systems, 101 E. Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55419
 Gary Tesser (R), #5-A, 2455 Haring St., Brooklyn, NY 11235
 Eric Verheiden (2002D, 787), 1805 Vista del Oro, Fullerton, CA 92831-1331;
 <everheid@adelphia.net>
 Brenton Verploeg (799), 1960 Tigertail Rd., Coconut Grove, FL 33133
 Conrad von Metzke (C), 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA 92117-3813; 858-270-8313;
 <metske@san.rr.com>
 Stephen T. Whitmore (C), 350 Old Paper Mill Road, Newark, DE 19711; 302-368-1127
 Fred Wiedemeyer (2002D-ES, 2004C-F, 2006A-E), Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton,
 Alberta T6T 1N1, CANADA; 780-465-6432; cell 780-497-8283; <wiedem@planet.eon.net>
 Don Williams (2006A-A), 27505 Artine Dr., Saugus, CA 91350-2193; 661-575-7252 (cell);
 661-297-3947 (home); 909-350-6723 (business); 909-350-7676 (fax); <dwilliams
 @fontana.org>; <www.fontana.org>
 W. Andrew York (797), P. O. Box 201117, Austin, TX 78720-1117; <wandrew88@gmail.com>
 Bill Young (N), 2304 James Buchanan Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022; 717-361-5768

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 5)

Like all presidential campaigns, the recently concluded one had some major comic relief. Most of it was provided, as usual, by a vice-presidential candidacy. The Republican Party apparently decided that the voters desperately wanted to elect a woman who could shoot and field-dress a moose. Governor Palin's recipes for mooseburgers and moose chili were printed in the newspapers, as was a cartoon which showed Bullwinkle telling Rocky that he wasn't going to vote for her. Actually, this last was a moot point. It has long been established that Rocky and Bullwinkle live in Frostbite Falls, Minnesota, and Minnesota has been carried by the Democrats in 12 of the last 13 presidential elections.

It also developed that Senator McCain believes the purpose of the Republican Party

is to win elections, while Governor Palin thinks that its purpose is to state a conservative ideological position so clearly that no one can doubt what it means. Since these two viewpoints are incompatible with each other, there was natural tension between the two members of the 2008 Republican ticket. Governor Palin's partisans clearly intend to run her for the presidency in 2012. Guess what the consequences will be.

Additional comic relief was provided by Senator McCain's invocation of "Joe the Plumber", supposedly a living symbol of the hard-working small businessmen who, the Republicans claimed, would be plundered by victorious Democrats so their money could be given to "Welfare Queens". There were several problems with this notion. For one thing, the man's given name is not "Joe" but "Sam". For another, he is not a licensed plumber but a country singer. Moreover, he owes the federal government a bundle in back taxes.

Maybe "Joe the Plumber" was actually the guy who put lipstick on a pig, which had earlier been a major concern of the Republican ticket.

MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIAS (continued from p. 5)

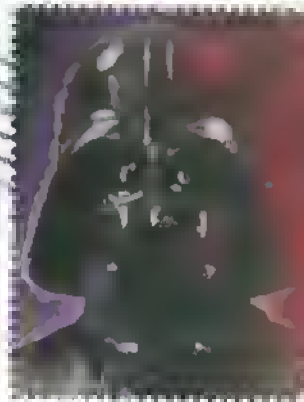
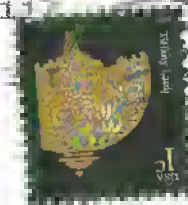
television. However, the creature is so obviously a man in a gorilla suit that few people have been convinced by it. However, someone is laying out a lot of money to perpetuate this hoax. Gorilla suits can be rented in Hollywood, but they are very expensive, and their owners get very upset if there is a possibility of damage to them.

GRAUSTARK #786

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302

BROOKLYN NY 11226

17 NOV 2008 PM 11:11



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hank Alme

7017 Jeweled Hand Circle
Columbia, MD

21044



21044-4304

- () - Sample copy.
- () - You may be interested in an item on p. ____.